

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5833

INFO SECDEF IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

CINCPAC

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 LONDON 16297

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y - MRN: 16297 VICE 16294

E.O. 11652: XEDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, UK, SN, US

SUBJECT: U.S. NAVAL USE OF SINGAPORE FACILITIES

REF: STATE 200775 DTG 222312 AUG 75

1. ON OCTOBER 22, PETER THOMSON (FCO ACTION OFFICER ON
SINGAPORE DEFENSE) GAVE US FOLLOWING PAPER:

"SINGAPOPE NAVAL FACILITIES

1. FOLLOWING CONSIDERATION OF THE UNITED STATES
EMBASSY NOTE DELIVERED ON 27 AUGUST, A TEAM OF UK
DEFENCE OFFICIALS REACHED PROVISIONAL AGREEMENT WITH
SINGAPORE OFFICIALS ON THE FOLLOWING ARRANGEMENTS:

A. CONTINUED UK CONTROL OF:

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- I. OPERATION OF THE UK PARTS OF SENOKO OIL FUEL
OEPOT, THE PIPELINES LEADING TO THE NAVAL BASIN
AND THE ASSOCIATED EQUIPMENT;
- II. ALLOCATION OF 6 AND 7 BERTHS IN THE NAVAL BASIN.

B. RETENTION BY THE UK OF:

- I. THOSE PARTS OF THE SENOKO FUEL DEPOT WHICH ARE
PRESENTLY ALLOCATED TO THE UK;
- II. THE PIPELINES FROM SENOKO TO THE NAVAL BASIN,
INCLUDING THE ASSOCIATED EQUIPMENT;
- III. A DESIGNATED LENGTH OF THE WEST WALL OF THE
NAVAL BASIN, KNOWN AS BERTHS 6 AND 7, INCLUDING
THE DULL WIDTH OF THE JETTY;
- IV. AN AREA OF SOME 100 BY 200 FEET OF OPEN GROUND
ADJACENT TO 6 AND 7 BERTHS, TO BE USED FOR
STORAGE OF PORT EQUIPMENT.

C. ALLOCATION TO THE UK OF A SMALL AMOUNT OF OFFICE
ACCOMMODATION TO BE USED FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF
SENOKO AND THE BERTHS.

2. THE SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT HAVE IMPLICITLY AGREED THAT
WARSHIPS OF THE FPDA NATIONS AND THE UNITED STATES SHOULD
ENJOY PRIORITY OF ACCESS TO THE BERTHS GIVEN A MINIMUM OF
72 HOURS NOTICE (AND WHERE APPROPRIATE DIPLOMATIC
CLEARANCE). THE TANKAGE WHICH IT WAS AGREED SHOULD BE
RETAINED BY THE UK AT SENOKO WILL BE ADEQUATE TO MEET
USN STORAGE REQUIREMENTS, AS SET OUT IN THE U.S. EMBASSY
NOTE.

3. HMG WOULD BE GRATEFUL TO RECEIVE EARLY CONFIRMATION
THAT THE PROPMSED ARRANGEMENTS OUTLINED AT PARAGRAPHS 1
AND 2 ABOVE WMULD MEET UNITED STATES REQUIREMENTS. WHEN
THIS HAS BEEN CONFIRMED, HMG WOULD LIKE TO REACH BROAD
AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ON FUNDING
AND ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS BEFORE CONFIRMING THE
PROPOSALS TO THE SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT. IT IS SUGGESTED
THIS MIGHT BE DONE THROUGH RN-USN CHANNELS IN WASHINGTON.

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4. BECAUSE THE SINGAPORE OFFICIALS WHO AGREED TO THE
ABOVE ARRANGEMENTS DID NOT DISCUSS CONDITIONS FOR NPW
VISITS, THIS QUESTION REMAINS UNRESOLVED. AS IT IS NOW
CLEAR THAT THE SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT INTEND TO
LINK IT TO THE BROADER QUESTION OF THE FUTURE OF THE
NAVAL FACHLITIES, HMG'S VIEW IS THAT ARRANGEMENTS FOR
NPW VISITS SHOULD BE DISCUSSED SEPARATELY IN CONSULTATION
WITH THE US GMVERNMENT."

2. IN RESPONSE TO OUR QUESTION THOMSON AFFIRMED THAT UK PROPOSAL ENVISAGES RETENTION OF TWO CIVILIAN UK EMPLOYEES AS MANAGERS OF FACILITIES.

3. THOMSON SAID THAT UK ENVISAGES THREE-STEP PROCEDURE AS FOLLOWS:

A) U.S. RESPONSE TO PARA ONE ABOVE THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS. THIS WOULD MEAN THAT USG WOULD

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AGREE IN PRINCIPLE WITH POINTS IN UK PAPER;

B) ONCE AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE REACHED, RN-USN DISCUSSIONS ON DETAILS WOULD THEN TAKE PLACE IN WASHINGTON.

C) AFTER RN AND USN AGREE ON DETAILS, UK WILL GO

BACK TO GOS WITH A FIRM PROPOSAL.

4. UK OFFICIALS HOPE THAT U.S. WILL RESPOND SOONEST BECAUSE THEY WOULD LIKE TO GET BACK TO GOS BEFORE CHRISTMAS IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE FINAL AGREEMENT BEFORE SPRING 1976. THIS TIMING IS BASED ON BRITISH REQUIREMENT TO WITHDRAW FMRCS AND TURN PROPERTIES OVER TO GOS IN ACCORDANCE WITH UK DEFENSE REVIEW.

5. THOMSON AAKNOWLEDGED THAT UK SCENARIO ENVISAGES SETTLEMENT OF GENERAL USE OF FACILITIES FIRST AND NPW ARRANGEMENTS LATER. UK IS PROPOSING THIS BECAUSE THEY
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BELIEVE THAT WHILE GOS WILL ACCOMMODATE NPW'S, NEGOTIATIONS ON THIS ASPECT OF USE OF FACILITIES WILL BE LONGER THAN THOSE FOR OTHER ASPECTS.

6. IN FINAL AOMMENT, THOMSON SAID THAT GOS HAD BEEN VERY FORTHCOMING IN INITIAL TALKS, EVEN ON POINT OF UK MANAGEMENT OF FACILITIES. GOS SEEMS TO HAVE DECIDED THAT UK MANAGEMENT WOULD BE BETTER THAN SOME SORT OF UK CONTRACT INVOLVING LOCAL COMMERCIAL INTERESTS. THOMSON ALSO NOTED THAT UK PROBLEMS HAD BEEN EASED BY A LEGAL STUDY IN HMG WHICH SHOWED THAT UK COULD TURN ALL OR PART OF FACILITIES BACK TO GOS UNDER TERMS OF /UK LAW AND EXISTING UK/GMS ARRANGEMENTS. THIS MEANS THAT UK WAS NOT FACED WILL "ALL OR NOTHING" CHOICE AND MADE IT POSSIBLE TO CONTEMPLATE RETENTION OF NEEDED FACILITIES ONLY.

RICHARDSON

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